



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

TIC08_DIP_CPS

Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2021/2022

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURES, POLITICS AND SOCIETY

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 20 hours

COURSE TITLE

Politics and Development in Africa

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

Political science

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

The Degree Course is entirely taught in English

COURSE SUMMARY

The course aims at analyzing the place of development practices both in African political societies and in the process of production of knowledge on African politics. More precisely, it intends first to provide theoretical and methodological instruments to analyze the interwoven sociopolitical, economic and cultural dynamics implied by development actions, emphasizing the articulations between the dynamics of the “above” and the “below”, the past and the present, the global and the local. By this approach, the course aims at making students aware of the plurality and complexity of the social processes underpinning development actions in practice. Second the course will develop a critical perspective on development discourses and practices, which naturalize universal teleological representations of economic and social progress, and interpret African societies as exceptions. It will show that the institutional and expert perspectives may be fruitful objects to analyze the exercise of power. Using a historicized and comparative perspective, it will also help problematizing the changes of development policies and ideas and their effect.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students are expected to:

- 1\ Be familiar with a methodological perspective combining a series of complementary tools to analyze development discourses and practices, taken from historical sociology of politics, anthropology of development, public policy analysis, international political sociology;
- 2\ Be able to critically analyze development processes, whose expertise, frameworks of thought and rationalities often generate tensions and power struggles when they are employed in real political contexts;
- 3\ Be capable to accurately construct analytical arguments, in a variety of written and oral formats, problematizing African political societies beyond normative representation of development and of Africa as a monolithic political space, naturally incline to underdevelopment.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

The visiting professor will be invited to present his/her research interests and ongoing research projects in a welcome seminar, in order to establish further scientific partnership and to fully involve him/her in the scientific life of the Department cultures politics and societies.

A seminar of the visiting professor will be proposed to to PhD students and researcher fellows of the Department.

A public conference will be organized involving local stakeholders committed in development cooperation with African countries.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The ideal candidate is a scholar committed to producing original and internationally acknowledged research on development practices in African societies from a political science perspective, sensitive to the historical and sociological dimensions of political processes. The ideal candidate would be fluent in English, with solid field research experience in at least one African country, a substantial publication record, documented teaching experience, and a genuine interest in establishing long-standing scientific cooperation programmes with the University of Turin. A solid network of scientific cooperation with both African universities and European or American universities specialized in African studies is welcome. A complementary activity as a development expert or practitioner might be a welcome additional experience.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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